UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.17/1996/L.17
1 May 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Fourth session
18 April-3 May 1996
Agenda item 7

PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

I. OVERALL CONSIDERATIONS

1. The Commission recalls that the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in 1994, adopted the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States to promote concrete action at the national, regional and international levels in 15 priority areas, with provisions for an initial review in 1996. The Commission notes that its recommendations are complementary to those contained in the Programme of Action. In the context of the special session of the General Assembly, to be convened in 1997 to review the overall implementation of Agenda 21, specific modalities will be recommended by the Commission for the full review of the Programme of Action in 1999.

2. The Commission, having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the sustainable development of coastal areas, tourism, energy resources, air transport, maritime transport, telecommunications, and management of environmental and natural disasters in small island developing States (E/CN.17/1996/20 and Add.1-7), the report of the Secretary-General on current donor activities in support of sustainable development in small island developing States (E/CN.17/1996/21) and the report of the High-level Panel Meeting on Island Developing Countries (E/CN.17/1996/IDC/3-UNCTAD/LLDC/IDC/3),

and having the benefit of the views expressed, notes the action taken by small island developing States at the national and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action.

3. The Commission notes the support of the international community, and the plans and programmes of organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to assist in the implementation of the Programme of Action and in the coordination and monitoring of its implementation. The Commission welcomes the support given by other relevant intergovernmental organizations.

4. The Commission recognizes the importance of SIDSTAP and SIDSNET in the overall implementation of the Programme of Action, and encourages the United Nations Development Programme to continue, in cooperation with Governments, its action to operationalize the two mechanisms.

5. The Commission stresses the importance of coordination in the area of strategy and policy formulation and recognizes the importance of consultation and interaction at the national, regional and international levels. In this context, the Commission emphasizes the role played by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Caribbean Community.

6. The Commission expresses concern at the overall trend of declining levels of flows of official development assistance to small island developing States (SIDS), but notes the need for better information on flows. The Commission emphasizes that it is imperative that domestic efforts of SIDS to mobilize financial resources for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action are adequately supported by the international community, as envisaged in the provisions of the Programme of Action, in particular those contained in paragraph 66 thereof. Recognizing that small island developing States are among the most environmentally vulnerable, the Commission urges the international community to give special priority to their situations and needs, including through access to grants and other concessional resources.

7. The Commission notes that a vulnerability index that takes into account the constraints arising from small size and environmental fragility, as well as the incidence of natural disasters of a national scale, and the consequent relationship of these constraints to economic vulnerability, should bring greater clarity to the development challenges and needs of SIDS. The Commission notes the slow progress on the index to date and encourages the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to accord priority to the development of the index, in keeping with the provisions of the Programme of Action and General Assembly resolution 50/116. The Commission notes with appreciation the offer by the Government of Malta to host the centre for the computation of the index on an ongoing basis.

8. The Commission notes that current trends of trade liberalization and globalization are bringing new challenges as well as possible opportunities to SIDS. It recommends that to meet the new challenges and take advantage of the new opportunities SIDS need to undertake necessary institutional reforms; develop responsive economic policy frameworks and human resources in order to

enhance their competitiveness and their ability to diversify quickly into new activities; explore cooperative approaches for sharing information and experience and building human and institutional capacity. The Commission urges the international community to recognize the inherent weaknesses of SIDS and recommends that it provide adequate support to SIDS to meet their adjustment costs and their information, human development and technology needs to enable them to sustain the development of their exports, while maintaining the integrity of their natural resource base.

9. Recognizing the coordinating role of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development in implementing the Programme of Action, the Commission recommends that the Secretary-General:

(a) Take into account the need to continue to provide substantive secretariat support to intergovernmental and inter-agency processes related to the monitoring, review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(b) Ensure that the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development continues to act as a liaison and focal point for agencies of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on matters related to the follow-up and implementation of the Programme of Action.

(c) Request the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, in its coordinating role, to look into the appropriate modalities for mobilizing resources for effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

10. The Commission stresses the important role the private sector can play in investment for sustainable development in SIDS, particularly in the infrastructure and tourism sectors. This should be based on a sustainable development strategy that integrates economic, social and environmental policies and regulatory frameworks to promote appropriate private investment.

II. CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEALEVEL RISE

11. The Commission recalls that SIDS are particularly vulnerable to global climate change and sealevel rise. Potential effects of global climate change and sealevel rise are increased strength and frequency of tropical storms and inundation of some islands with loss of exclusive economic zones, economic infrastructure, human settlements and culture.

12. The Commission welcomes the growing number of ratifications of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the decision that commitments contained in article 4, paragraph 2 (a) and (b), were inadequate to meet the ultimate objective of the Convention.

13. [The Commission takes note of the conclusion contained in the second assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, inter alia, that there is a discernible human influence on the climate system, and

encourages the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate to accelerate its work in drafting a protocol or another legal instrument containing quantified reduction limitation objectives for the period beyond 2000, so that it would fulfil its mandate in the required time.]*

14. The Commission also calls upon the international community to support SIDS in their efforts to adapt to the sealevel rise that will be experienced as a result of the impact of greenhouse gases that have already been emitted into the atmosphere.

III. NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS

15. The Commission noted that this issue was being considered following a two-year period in which SIDS experienced several major natural disasters that brought catastrophes of national proportions to these countries because of their small size and fragile ecosystems.

16. The Commission recognizes that the most effective strategy for responding to natural disasters is formulated through regional cooperation as an integral part of sustainable development frameworks, with international support. In support of this objective the Commission:

(a) Encourages the Governments of the small island developing States to further increase their efforts towards subregional, regional and interregional cooperation;

(b) Supports the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action with particular regard to improved education and training in disaster reduction, including the creation of interdisciplinary scientific and technical networking at all levels, for the purpose of capacity-building and human resource development in SIDS;

(c) Calls upon all Governments to support the facilitation of an effective synergy between the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action;

(d) Invites Governments to consider establishing an informal open-ended working group within the existing International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, with the membership of concerned States, as well as of all relevant sectors in disaster reduction, with a view to ensuring full integration and participation of SIDS in the mapping of a concerted strategy for disaster reduction into the twenty-first century.

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* It was decided to retain paragraph 13 pending final decisions on protection of the atmosphere, on the understanding that if its contents replicated those of any decision on the protection of the atmosphere, it would be dropped, otherwise it will be retained.

17. The Commission also calls on the international community to support the efforts of SIDS directed towards:

(a) Mobilizing additional resources to address urgent disaster reduction requirements in SIDS;

(b) Improving access to disaster and warning information in order to enhance the capability of SIDS with respect to disaster management;

(c) Providing technical, financial and expert support for the establishment of a mechanism for interregional cooperation and the exchange of information among small island States on disaster reduction, in particular with respect to training, institutional development and disaster mitigation programming;

(d) Targeting research and further development of knowledge in the following thematic areas for building risk-reduction capacities in small island States:

(i) Insurance as a preventive and mitigating tool for disaster reduction;

(ii) Telecommunications and information systems as a tool for disaster reduction;

(iii) Limits and opportunities for the establishment of national disaster emergency funds and emergency administrative procedures;

(iv) Evaluation of constraints in the access of small island States to reliable data, disaster-specific knowledge, and technology means;

(v) A review of the linkages between disasters, development and environment, including the development of methods for the systematic appraisal of developments in relation to disaster risks;

(vi) An analysis of the linkage between global climate change and the characteristics and occurrence of natural hazards in small island States.

IV. COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES

18. The Commission stresses the fact that for SIDS, effective coastal zone management is a prerequisite for sustainable development. In addition, the marine areas play an important role in meeting some essential needs. The importance of these areas in the sustainable development of SIDS were recognized in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea itself and in the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (A/50/550, annex I), as well as in the Coral Reef Initiative (convened in the Philippines in June 1995) and the 1995 Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

19. The Commission also recognizes the importance of the decision 2/10 of the Second Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in the context of the protection and conservation of coastal and marine resources of SIDS.

20. The Commission recommends that in developing integrated national coastal area management strategies and plans, Governments should ensure that all steps are undertaken with the active participation of the private sector and local communities. Mechanisms for institutional coordination should also be established.

21. Within the context of integrated coastal area management (ICAM) for SIDS, the activities, planned or under way, by international organizations should be implemented in a coordinated and cost-effective manner. These activities should include, as one of the priorities, the protection and management of marine and coastal areas through ICAM, including a number of demonstration or pilot projects in integrated "island" management, in which marine and coastal resource issues are incorporated into the development planning process of selected SIDS.

22. To assist national authorities in their tasks of designing and implementing ICAM plans, guidelines for specific subsectors such as tourism, fisheries, agriculture and forestry, which are among the main users of resources in the coastal areas of SIDS, should be further developed. The experience gained by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in these areas should be used in the process. Such guidelines can be of assistance to planners and users in these subsectors.

V. ENERGY RESOURCES

23. The Commission notes that SIDS continue to be heavily dependent on conventional sources of energy, although as a group the total consumed was a small percentage of world consumption. The Commission also notes that due to the small quantities involved the cost per capita was relatively high and use was generally inefficient.

24. The Commission calls upon the international community, including the Global Environment Facility, within the framework of its operational strategy, to support commercial energy development in SIDS based on those environmentally sound renewable sources with demonstrated viability, to support improvement of the efficiency of existing technologies and end-use equipment based on conventional energy sources, and to assist with the financing of investments necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas.

25. The Commission notes that many SIDS continue to depend on biomass fuels. It encourages the implementation of projects that will ensure a sustainable fuelwood industry.

VI. TOURISM RESOURCES

26. The Commission recognizes the continued importance of tourism as one of only a few development options for many SIDS, both as a dynamic sector and as one that can stimulate growth in others.

27. The Commission encourages SIDS to pursue policies of sustainable tourism development by:

(a) Diversifying the tourism product, enhancing its quality and increasingly targeting the upper segment of the tourist market;

(b) Strengthening linkages of other economic sectors with tourism so that domestic production can viably provide for the consumer needs of tourists to the maximum extent possible;

(c) Investing adequately in the collection of data on all relevant indicators of benefits and costs necessary for cost-benefit analysis in order to be able to carry out systematic evaluations of the contribution of the tourism sector to the domestic economy in relation to other sectors and in relation to social and environmental costs;

(d) Developing a multidisciplinary approach for the rigorous vetting of tourism development proposals, taking into account prospective cumulative impacts of tourism development, and establishing environmental standards for the approval of projects.

28. The Commission calls upon the international community to provide appropriate assistance for the improvement and development of basic physical infrastructures in SIDS, such as airports and harbours, roads, telecommunications systems and freshwater systems.

29. The Commission notes the importance of regional cooperation in tourism and proposes that consideration be given to the development of common policy guidelines and standards at the regional level for the mutual benefit of SIDS. The Commission calls upon the international community to support the efforts of regional tourism organizations to improve their effectiveness.

VII. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

30. Bearing in mind the resource constraint for expansion and modernization of the telecommunications network in SIDS, the high per capita cost of infrastructure due to small market size and the lack of economies of scale, the Commission encourages SIDS to continue their telecommunications development and to improve facilities and availability. The Commission also encourages SIDS to maintain and strengthen communications and business links, on a regional and subregional basis, with larger neighbours in the continental shelf, as well as with development partners.

31. The Commission calls upon the international community to assist SIDS in identifying the most feasible ways and means of securing financial assistance

from different sources, and invites the World Bank and the regional development banks, where appropriate, to systematically finance telecommunications development, particularly where most urgently needed.

32. The Commission takes note of developments in air transport since the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and proposes a study of the impact on SIDS of changes taking place in the regulation of air transport. The Commission also proposes that more regional cooperation with regard to the regulatory aspects of air transport, such as joint negotiation of air transport agreements, should be pursued.

33. The Commission calls upon the international community, where appropriate, to facilitate and support new and existing initiatives taken at the regional level to improve air transport for the benefit of SIDS.

34. The Commission notes that with respect to the economies of SIDS which are open, maritime transport continues to represent an important lifeline to other markets. The Commission is convinced that improved maritime transport, which responds to the peculiar circumstances of SIDS and includes reduced overall costs, would be supportive of sustainable development goals.

35. The Commission encourages the modernization of fleets through appropriate investment incentives and innovative measures. It invites SIDS to consider becoming parties to relevant international legal instruments to promote maritime safety and environmental protection, and standardization in shipping. Regional initiatives are also encouraged to support these goals, expand maritime capabilities of regions, and provide an improved intra-regional sea transportation service with the support of the international community.

36. In view of the large investments involved in the development of infrastructure and acquisition of the means of maritime transport, the Commission calls upon the international community, where appropriate, to support the efforts of SIDS at the national and regional levels.

UNITED
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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.17/1996/L.18
1 May 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Fourth session
18 April-3 May 1996
Agenda item 4

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Financial resources and mechanisms
(Chapter 33 of Agenda 21)

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development welcomes the report of the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Finance and Changing Consumption and Production Patterns (E/CN.17/1996/7) and the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Financial resources and mechanisms for sustainable developments overview of current issues and developments" (E/CN.17/1996/4 and Add.1), and reiterates all decisions made at its second and third sessions on issues related to financial resources and mechanisms.

2. Having reviewed the financing of sustainable development, the Commission reaffirms that the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on new and additional resources remain a key element of financial resources and mechanisms. The Commission also reaffirms that chapter 33 of Agenda 21 provides the framework and guidance for the discussion of various current and emerging issues, and that that framework is clear enough to take into consideration new developments, including the decline in official development assistance (ODA) relative to gross national product (GNP) and the increase of private flows to some developing countries. The Commission further reaffirms that, in general, financing for the implementation of Agenda 21 will come from countries' own public and private sectors.

3. As to mobilizing external financial resources for sustainable development, the Commission recognizes that ODA has a special role to play in promoting sustainable development in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries. The Commission underlines the urgent need to fulfil all financial commitments of Agenda 21, especially those contained in chapter 33,

and attaches importance to its decision at its third session to promote, inter alia, new approaches to enhancing the effectiveness of ODA and increasing it within relevant bilateral and multilateral mechanisms with the objective of achieving the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of GNP, as reaffirmed in paragraph 33.13 of Agenda 21, as soon as possible. The Commission stresses that it is important that donor countries promote greater public awareness of commitments concerning ODA as set forth in chapter 33 of Agenda 21.

4. The Commission emphasizes the need to improve the effectiveness of ODA by various means, including the leveraging of private-sector investments from national and external sources. Furthermore, where it is not already the case, the effectiveness of ODA could also be enhanced by tailoring it to the specific needs and circumstances of developing countries. ODA flows should be further examined on a continuing basis, particularly with respect to their overall levels and allocation among the interlinked components of sustainable development.

5. The Commission acknowledges the positive aspects of the expansion of external private capital flows to some developing countries, and emphasizes the importance of their contribution to economic growth and sustainable development of those countries. However, it stresses its concern at the volatility of such flows, which has a negative bearing on the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustainable development. Therefore, both developed and developing countries should examine initiatives conducive to a stable and more favourable environment for enhancing the stability of external private capital flows.

6. The Commission also acknowledges that the expansion of external private capital flows has been limited to some developing countries, and that therefore the great majority of developing countries are not benefiting from the expansion of such flows. The Commission recognizes that the further increase and more widespread distribution of external private capital flows should be encouraged through appropriate national economic, environmental and social policies and laws or regulations, as well as through a conducive international environment, including non-discriminatory trade and open investment.

7. The Commission, having examined the issue of external capital flows and their impacts, notes that foreign investors, in particular transnational corporations, should be encouraged to consider the goals of sustainable development and environmental responsibility in their investment projects, and also recognizes the importance of host countries adopting appropriate sustainable development policies.

8. The Commission welcomes the progress made in discussions on the debt problem of heavily indebted poor countries held at the meeting of the Development Committee of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, D.C., on 23 April 1996. Consideration should be given to comprehensive approaches to assisting low-income countries with substantial multilateral debt problems through the flexible implementation of existing instruments and new mechanisms, where necessary. The Commission also recognizes that effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-service problems of developing countries, in particular the poorest and heavily indebted countries, can contribute substantially to the

strengthening of the global economy and to the efforts of developing countries to achieve economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development.

9. As to mobilizing national financial resources for sustainable development, the Commission emphasizes the importance of the participation of the private sector in sustainable development, in particular through increased investments. Sound and predictable macroeconomic and sustainable development policies at the national and international levels are important for promoting private-sector investment consistent with sustainable development objectives. Trade liberalization, an appropriate legal framework that protects private and intellectual property rights, and the development of appropriate domestic financial markets are also required.

10. To further promote private-sector participation, the Commission calls for greater use of innovative mechanisms, such as build-operate-transfer and similar mechanisms for financing infrastructure projects for sustainable development. The privatization of public enterprises and contracting-out of services should be encouraged, as appropriate, taking into consideration the different conditions and circumstances of countries.

11. The Commission encourages Governments to consider further studies and, on a voluntary basis, the gradual implementation of economic instruments, further examining the costs and benefits associated with the use of such instruments. The Commission also notes that in practice the application of economic instruments in a number of countries generally yields satisfactory results.

12. The Commission recommends that pollution abatement funds should improve their performance by greater use of project evaluation techniques. Governments are encouraged to consider measures for enhancing the effectiveness and reach of such funds.

13. As to financing the transfer of environmentally sound technologies (ESTs), the Commission emphasizes that financing for ESTs should come from national and external resources and innovative mechanisms in accordance with chapters 33 and 34 of Agenda 21. In pursuance of chapter 34 of Agenda 21, technology transfer efforts should be enhanced within a stable, predictable national and international economic and regulatory environment that will ensure the identification and development of markets for ESTs.

14. As to the development of innovative mechanisms for the financing of sustainable development, the Commission welcomes the decision of the Economic and Social Council to include an agenda item entitled "New and innovative ideas for generating funds" at its substantive session of 1996, and recommends that the report of the Third Expert Group Meeting on Financial Issues of Agenda 21 be made available for the discussion by the Council under that agenda item. The Commission also emphasizes that the scope of the examination of such mechanisms should encompass all aspects - economic, social and environmental - of sustainable development.

15. As to policy options and financial instruments in the matrix approach, the Commission recognizes that economic instruments need to be tailored to reflect individual countries' circumstances, and reiterates the decision contained in paragraphs 137-139 of its report on its third session. Furthermore, the Commission stresses that that approach should not divert attention from the commitments contained in chapter 33 of Agenda 21. The Commission also recommends that the coverage of the matrix be broadened by including such issues as benefits to the traditional holders of indigenous knowledge. The Commission encourages wider dissemination of information on the use of such instruments and the costs and benefits associated with their use so as to enable further work on the matrix approach.

16. The Commission recognizes the relevant role to be played by major groups, including in financing the activities set out in Agenda 21, in particular the transfer of technology, and emphasizes that that contribution should be carried out in compliance with the policies and strategies of recipient countries.

17. In its discussion of practical steps towards resolving the above-mentioned issues, the Commission calls attention to the need for further studies, the desirability of strengthening cooperation and the necessity of improving the exchange of information. As to further studies, which should complement the work being carried out in other forums, the Commission emphasized that:

(a) ODA flows should be further examined on a continuing basis, particularly with respect to their overall levels and allocation among the interlinked components of sustainable development;

(b) There is a need to conduct an in-depth analysis of external capital flows to developing countries in order to better understand their social, distributional, economic and environmental impacts on sustainable development. In addition, a detailed analysis of the options for a regulatory framework for improving the impact of such flows on sustainable development is required;

(c) A study of trends in capital flows, especially towards developing countries, including the connection between private foreign investments and the objectives of sustainable development, should be carried out in order to facilitate a comprehensive debate on that issue;

(d) Further studies of the effects, costs and benefits of economic instruments should be undertaken. In addition, further studies on the impact of subsidies on sustainable development should be promoted to provide a better basis for policy makers to identify and gradually abolish subsidies that have clear negative impacts on sustainable development. Such studies should assess the economic, social and distributional impacts of subsidy reduction, as well as the transfer of resources to more sustainable and efficient activities, taking into account the specific circumstances and economic, social and ecological conditions of countries. Such studies should also examine the viability of ecological tax reform, its impact on international competitiveness and the modalities that could facilitate such reforms;

(e) A detailed cross-country performance review should be undertaken to identify how conservation trust funds can be made more cost-effective mechanisms

for environmental conservation. Such a review should also aim to simplify the administrative framework of such funds and to improve strategies for leveraging their financial resources with other sources of financing;

(f) As to innovative mechanisms for financing sustainable development, it is important to study the feasibility of various innovative mechanisms, while continuing to pursue efforts to increase ODA, secure the adequate replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and encourage private-sector investment. The Commission stresses the importance of exploring other innovative mechanisms, as well as of continuing studies on the possible roles for insurance companies and alternative banking in facilitating the financing of sustainable development;

(g) As stated in paragraph 131 of its report on its third session, the need for and effectiveness of environmentally sound technology rights banks and the practical feasibility of establishing such banks should be further studied, and action in that area is called for;

(h) The use of economic instruments in different countries and sectoral strategies and programmes should be studied and the results reported to the Commission.

18. As to the desirability of strengthening cooperation, the Commission emphasizes that:

(a) Bilateral aid agencies, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the Bretton Woods institutions and other multilateral financial institutions should become more responsive to national priorities and sustainable development strategies, and should enhance their cooperation and coordination efforts for greater effectiveness in meeting the objectives of Agenda 21, particularly the mobilization of financial resources. In structural adjustment programmes, more consideration should be given to economic, social and environmental impacts, taking into account Commitment 8 of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development;

(b) Cooperation on developing innovative financial mechanisms is important, and the Commission would welcome an involvement of the World Bank, IMF, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Civil Aviation Organization and other institutions in making further progress towards understanding the prospects and requirements for the practical implementation of such mechanisms;

(c) In the context of promoting the transfer of ESTs, bilateral aid agencies, international organizations and financial institutions should cooperate with Governments to formulate and implement an enabling policy environment. In addition, the importance of the provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights of the World Trade Organization is recalled.

19. As to the necessity of improving the exchange of information, the Commission emphasizes that:

(a) The United Nations Environment Programme should further disseminate its two recent statements on the banking and insurance services industries, noting that the financial services industry is taking a strong interest in improving the environmental management practices of its business clients;

(b) The sharing of national experiences in the use of economic instruments should be promoted, and countries are invited to report to the Commission on their experiences concerning the implementation of various financial mechanisms and the use of economic instruments. The Commission should explore ways and means of enhancing the sharing of experiences in consultation with all interested parties.

(c) In the context of promoting the transfer of ESTs, international organizations, in particular financial institutions, should assist Governments in developing and implementing appropriate technical assistance programmes that help buyers and sellers of technology to identify each other, reducing pre-investment costs by providing technical, financial, and legal expertise, and identifying and supporting projects that demonstrate and commercialize ESTs in specific sectors.

UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.17/1996/L.19
1 May 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Fourth session
18 April-3 May 1996
Agenda item 6 (a)

PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE AND PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS AND ALL KINDS OF SEAS

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

In accordance with paragraph 18 of the Washington Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, the Commission on Sustainable Development recommends the following draft resolution to the Economic and Social Council for adoption at its substantive session of 1996:

Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant provisions of Agenda 21, 1/ in particular

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

chapters 17, 33, 34, 38 and other related chapters, and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 2/

Recalling further its resolution 50/110 of 20 December 1995 on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which it endorsed, inter alia, Governing Council decision 18/31 on the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities,

Noting the successful conclusion of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, which was held in Washington, D.C. from 23 October to 3 November 1995,

Having considered the Washington Declaration and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, as well as the proposal of the United Nations Environment Programme on institutional arrangements and implementation of the Global Programme of Action and relevant recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

1. Endorses the Washington Declaration and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

2. Stresses the need for States to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the national and, as appropriate, regional and international levels;

3. Also stresses the need for States to take action for the formal endorsement by each competent international organization of those parts of the Global Programme of Action which are relevant to their mandates and to accord appropriate priority to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in the work programme of each organization;

4. Further stresses the need for States to take such action at the next meetings of the governing bodies of the United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Health Organization, International Maritime Organization, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Labour Organization and United Nations Industrial Development Organization and in the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the relevant bodies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, as well as in other competent international and regional organizations within and outside the United Nations system;

2/ Ibid., annex I.

5. Finally stresses the need for international cooperation, as outlined in sections IV.A and B of the Global Programme of Action, in capacity-building, technology transfer and cooperation, and the mobilization of financial resources, including support, in particular, for developing countries, especially the least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing States, and to this end calls upon bilateral donors and international, regional and subregional financial institutions and mechanisms, including the Global Environment Facility, and other competent development and financial institutions to:

(a) Ensure that their programmes give appropriate priority for country-driven projects aimed at the implementation of the Global Programme of Action;

(b) Assist with capacity-building in the preparation and implementation of national programmes and in identifying ways and means of funding them;

(c) Improve their coordination to enhance the delivery of financial and other support;

6. Invites non-governmental organizations and major groups to initiate and strengthen their actions to facilitate and support the effective implementation of the Global Programme of Action;

7. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare, for the consideration of the Governing Council at its nineteenth session, specific proposals on:

(a) The role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, including the relevant role of its Regional Seas Programme and Water Unit;

(b) Arrangements for secretariat support to the Global Programme of Action;

(c) Modalities for periodic intergovernmental review of progress in implementing the Global Programme of Action;

8. Calls upon the United Nations Environment Programme, within its available resources, and with the aid of voluntary contributions from States for this purpose, to take expeditious action to provide for the establishment and implementation of the clearing-house mechanism referred to in the Global Programme of Action, and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare and submit to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session specific proposals on, inter alia:

(a) The establishment of an inter-organizational group to develop the basic design and structure of the clearing-house data directory and its linkages to information delivery mechanisms;

(b) The means of linking the inter-organizational group to ongoing work within the United Nations system on the identification of and access to relevant databases and the comparability of data;

(c) The outline of a pilot project on the development of the clearing-house's source category component on sewage, to be implemented in partnership with the World Health Organization;

9. Calls upon States, in relation to the clearing-house mechanism, to take action in the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations and programmes so as to ensure that these organizations and programmes take the lead in coordinating the development of the clearing-house mechanism with respect to the following source categories, which are not listed in order of priority;

(a) Sewage - the World Health Organization;

(b) Persistent organic pollutants - Inter-organizational Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the International Programme on Chemical Safety and Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety;

(c) Heavy metals - the United Nations Environment Programme in cooperation with the Inter-organizational Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

(d) Radioactive substances - the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(e) Nutrients and sediment mobilization - the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

(f) Oils (hydrocarbons) and litter - the International Maritime Organization;

(g) Physical alterations, including habitat modification and destruction of areas of concern - the United Nations Environment Programme;

10. Decides to determine, at its special session to be held in June 1997 in accordance with its resolution 50/113 of 20 December 1995, specific arrangements for integrating the outcomes of periodic intergovernmental reviews, as envisaged in paragraph 7 (c) above, in the future work of the Commission on Sustainable Development related to the monitoring of the implementation of and follow-up to Agenda 21, in particular chapter 17.